

REMARKS

In the Final Office Action mailed March 21, 2006, the Examiner took the following action: (1) rejected claims 5-9 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite; and (2) rejected claims 22 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nikoonahad (U.S. 6,919,957). The Examiner acknowledged, however, that claims 2-4, 10-11, 13-21, 41-48, 50, 52, and 54-65 are allowed, and that claims 25-26, and 28-38 would be allowable if rewritten to include the limitations of their respective base and intermediate claims.

I. Rejections of claims 5-9 under 35 USC § 112, ¶2

Claims 5-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicants have proposed amendments to claims 5-9 to correct the informality noted by the Examiner, namely the lack of antecedent basis for "the infrared spectrometer." Applicants respectfully submit that claims 5-9 are no longer indefinite, and request reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2-11 and 13-21

Claim 2-4, 10-11, and 13-21 were acknowledged as being in condition for allowance. Applicants have proposed amendments to claims 5-9 to correct the informalities noted by the Examiner, and therefore respectfully submit that claims 5-9 (which depend from claim 10) are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, claims 2-11 and 13-21 are now in condition for allowance.

Claims 24-26 and 28-38

Claim 25 has been amended to include the limitations of its base claim (claim 22) thereby placing claim 25 in condition for allowance. Claims 24, 26, and 28-38 depend from claim 25 and are also in condition for allowance. Accordingly, claims 24-26 and 28-38 are now in condition for allowance.

Claims 41-48, 50, 52, and 54-65

Claim 41-48, 50, 52, and 54-65 were acknowledged as being in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request entry of the proposed amendments, and allowance of claims 2-11, 13-21, 24-26, 28-38, 41-48, 50, 52, and 54-65. If there are any remaining matters that may be handled by telephone conference, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dated: May 19, 2006

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